

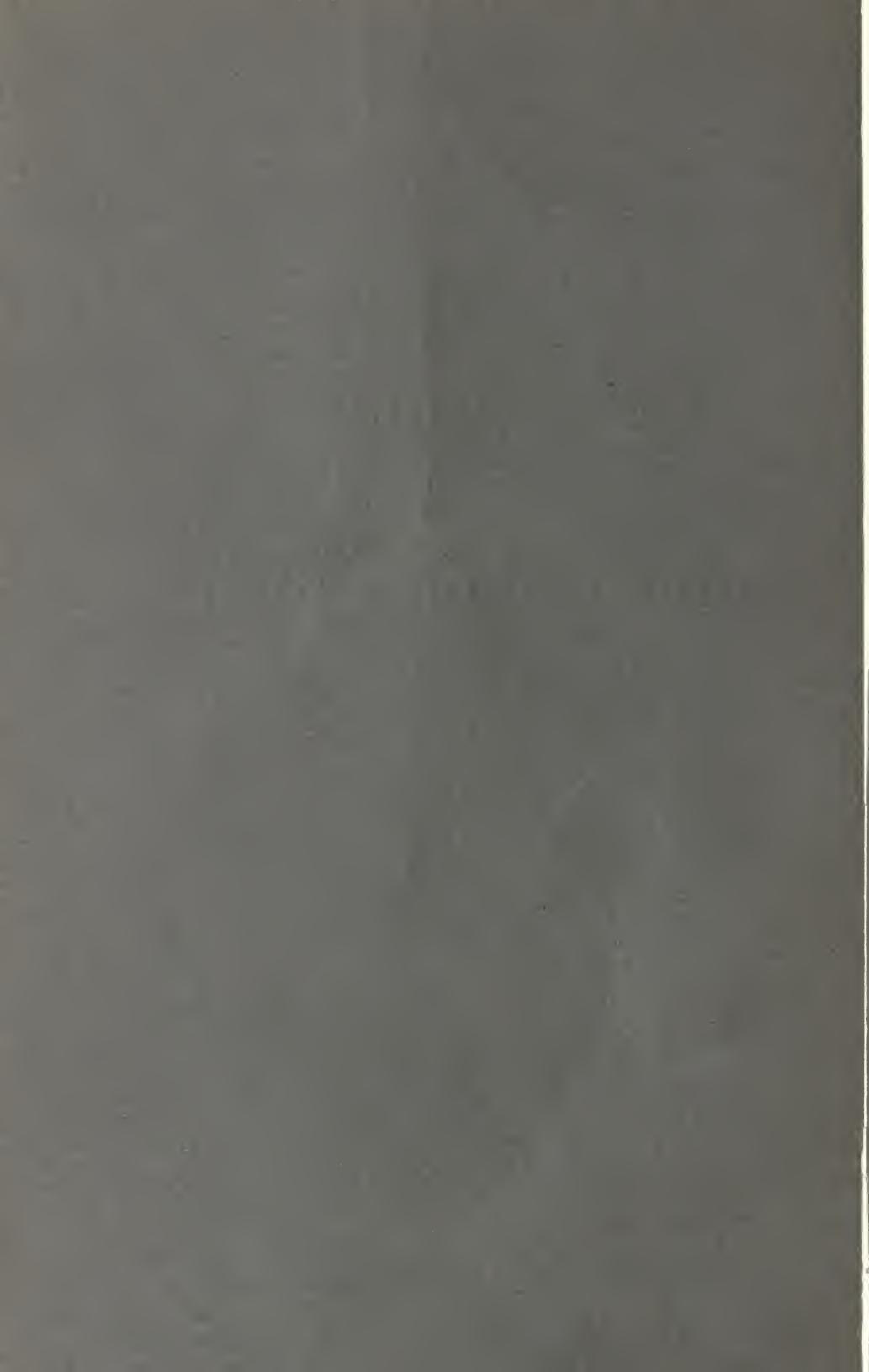
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LIBRARY REPORT

OF

South Dakota Libraries

1908

BY

Wm. H. POWERS
PRESIDENT S. D. S. L. A.

South Dakota Library Assoc.

LIBRARY SCHOOL

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Library Report

SOUTH DAKOTA LIBRARIES

By the kindness of Wm. H. Powers, President of the South Dakota Library Association, this report on the libraries of the state is herewith submitted.

H.A. Ustrand

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Library Report

Brookings, S. D., October 29, 1908.

SIR: I have the honor to submit to you a report upon the condition of libraries in South Dakota. Such report is made as the result of correspondence with you and Governor Crawford. In response to a letter from me concerning the desirability of legislation providing for a report upon libraries, Governor Crawford wrote as follows:

January 12, 1907.

MY DEAR SIR: I do not think any legislation is necessary in the matter concerning which you write. The association of the Librarians of the State is one which is so closely allied to the educational system of the state that it seems to me entirely proper for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to incorporate a report like the one you suggest in his biennial report.

Yours sincerely,

COE I. CRAWFORD, Governor.

MR. WM. H. POWERS.

As you signified your readiness to receive such report, when the governor's opinion was communicated to you, in behalf of the State Library Association I present the following information:

Yours respectfully,

WM. H. POWERS, Pres. S. D., S. L. A

To the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Pierre, South Dakota:

The South Dakota State Library Association owes its present organization to the meeting held in Sioux Falls, 1906, in conjunction with the Educational Association. The first attempt at organization dates from a meeting in May, 1904, with the Federation of Women's Clubs. The curious may learn about this and other interesting matters in the report of the Sioux Falls meeting published by the Educational Association.

In 1907 statistics were gathered and published thru the courtesy of the State Journal of Education in the October number of that Journal. Another meeting of the Association was held in Watertown, also in conjunction with the Educational Association. Because of the meeting of the American Library Association at Minnetonka in June, 1908, which it was hoped a goodly number of our librarians might attend, it was decided not to prepare a program for a meeting at Aberdeen in December, 1908.

This report embodies statistics gathered in response to inquiries sent out to the libraries and schools. The response has not been as ready as had been expected—there seems to be an ingrained antipathy to the making of reports—yet the information concerning all but high school libraries is fairly complete and, it is hoped, is accurate. High School libraries were included because the recent law gives to the development of libraries in the schools such impulse that the number of volumes in the high schools already far outnumbers these in the public libraries. It is to be presumed, therefore, that such libraries are at present showing a larger usefulness than other libraries can. It was with the thought of such conditions that the program for the Sioux Falls meeting was arranged; for in that program special emphasis was placed upon the library as it affected the schools. The usefulness of the school libraries in South Dakota, great as it is, would be greatly increased, so at least some of those who give their whole time to library work have thought, if the teachers could learn something of library methods. It is with such end in view that in many normal schools the embryo teachers are given a course of library instruction. So important is the matter that the National Educational Association recently published a pamphlet, entitled, *Instruction in Library Administration in Normal Schools*.

LIBRARIES OF THE STATE INSTITUTIONS.

LOCATION	Institution	Founded	Vols. total	Expenditures		Total (a)
				Add. 1908	Books	
Pierre	State Library	1901	20,000	.....	\$300 00	\$400 00
Aberdeen	N. N. and Ind. School	.....	3,000	.....	.....	.....
Brookings	S. D. S. C.	1887	11,000	1,119	694 00	1,311 00
Madison	State Normal	1885	4,000	.....	100 00	36 00
Rapid City	State school of mines	1885	2,690	432	793 00	78 00
Spearfish	No report	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,000 00
Springfield	No report	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Vermillion	State University	1882	13,600	1,300	2,300 00	200 00

(a) Not including salaries.

LIBRARIES OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

LOCATION	Institution	Founded	Vols. total	Expenditures		Total (a)
				Add. 1908	Books	
Canton	Augustana college	.....	1,100	80	.....	.....
Huron	Huron college	1881	4,500	80	.....	\$60 00
Mitchell	Dakota Wes. U	1885	6,231	900	500	\$40 00
Redfield	Redfield college	1887	4,500	400	.....	.....
Yankton	Yankton college	1890 (a)	8,000	300	350 00	500 00

(a) Carnegie building, 1905. No report was received from other educational institutions.

CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

LOCATION	Institution	Founded	Vols. total	Add. 1908	Levy	Expenditures		
						Books	Binding	Total
Aberdeen	Alex. Mitchell	1893	5,000	478	\$500 00	75 00		\$2,500 00
Deadwood (a)	D. Pub. Lib.	1904	4,300	489	1,500 00	\$319 00	17 00	1,589 00
Madison	C. Lib. of M.	1905	1,750	320	1,200 00	250 00		1,520 00
Milbank	M. Car. Lib.	1901	1,300	90	700 00	136 00		700 00
Mitchell	Car. Lib.	1903	3,600	322	1,250 00	400 00		1,675 00
Pierre	P. Car. Lib.	1904	2,625	400	1,200 00	300 00		1,200 00
Redfield	Car. Lib.	1903	2,500	400	1,100 00	400 00		1,100 00
Sioux Falls	Car. Free Pub. Lib.	1902	7,688	580	3,000 00	574 00	165 00	3,000 00
Vermillion	Car. Pub. Lib.	1904	2,035	300	1,000 00			
Watertown	W. Car. Pub.	1900	2,500	220	1,500 00	250 00		1,500 00
Yankton	Car. Lib.	1903	4,000	1,000				

(a) For 1907.

OTHER PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

LOCATION	Institution	Founded	Vols. total	Add. 1908	Expenditures		
					Books	Binding	Total
Britton (a)	B. L. and R. R. Wom. Lit. Club	1905	400	124			
Gettysburg (a)	Lib. Assn.	1906	136				
Hot Springs			1,500	250	\$200 00		\$750 00
Huron (b)	Hearst Free L. and R. R.			2,000	135		
Lead (a)		1895	10,000	732			3,000 00 (b)
Miller (a)				450	45		
Rapid City (a)	Free Pub. L.	1904	1,326	300	160 00		740 00
Sisseton	S. Free P. L.	1906	639	140	55 00		480 00

(a) For 1907. (b) Huron is about to occupy a Carnegie building.

LIBRARIES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS.

INSTITUTION	Librarian	Periodicals		Total	Dailies	When open	
		Paid	Gifts			Days	Hours
State Lib	Doane Robinson	7	400				
N. N. and I. S.	Miss G. Taubman	56	.....		6	6	41
S. D. S. C.	Wm. H. Powers	64	86	150	4	7	60
State N. S.	Mrs. L. M. Tolles	64	14	90	4	6	44
School of Mines	Della M. Haft	24	20	45	4	6	45
Vermillion	Mabel K. Richardson	115	.....		6	6	66
							1

LIBRARIES OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

INSTITUTION	Librarian	Periodicals		Total	Dailies	When open	
		Paid	Gifts			Days	Hours
Augustana C.	J. S. Berdahl (a)	12	.....	30	2		
Huron College	T. B. Broughton	22	19	53	4	6	60
Dak. Wes. U	G. A. Warfield	40	.....	90	5	6	43
Redfield C	Eliz. H. Avery	16	7	27	2	6	55
Yankton	Helen E. Miner	60	10	85	15	2	2
							1

(a) Library Com.

CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

OTHER PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

INSTITUTION	LIBRARIAN	Periodicals			Dailies	Daily visitors	Hours	Regist'd patrons
		Paid	Gifts	Total				
Britton.....	Mrs. Rosalie Collins .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gettysburg	Mrs. Lucy P. Bryson	10	5	18	8	35	7	49
Hot Springs	Mabel Osmotherly.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	125
Huron.....	Mrs. J. Costun.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lead	Katherine E. Gold	70	.....	70	24	.....	7	49
Miller.....	Mrs. Mina Waters .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rapid City	Laura Bower.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sisseton.....	Mrs. J. G. Leffingwell.....	15	18	1	10	7	7	59

Thus it is seen that the Association has received reports from 32 libraries besides reports from high school libraries. There are others from which no reports have been received: From the penitentiary, from other state institutions, from a few denominational institutions, and from the following towns, where it is said libraries exist: Clear Lake, Faulkton, Castlewood, Howard, Ipswich, and Pukwana. Regarding some of these towns the information came too late to admit of asking them for a report. Yet as these libraries not reporting are all of them small, the totals obtained from those reporting are fairly accurate.

Total volumes in state institutions	54,190
Total volumes in other institutions.....	24,331
Total volumes in Carnegie public libraries	37,298
Total volumes in other public libraries.....	12,885
Total volumes outside of school libraries	128,704

The growth of these libraries has really been remarkable; for outside of the institutional libraries practically all has been done since the century opened. The Carnegie Library has been the chief factor in this growth. Of these I hear good reports. In most cases the library has been cataloged, the work organized, and the librarians eager to do all that can be done to make the library helpful to the community. The conditions, however, are far from ideal, and it has been the hope of the Association that very soon there might be established a Library Commission. Such a commission is actively at work, with results, in all our neighboring states. In the meantime the Association has aimed as far as possible to make up for the want of the commission. It has been working for the establishment of some traveling libraries; for the experience of other states serves to show that of all the library activities this form pays best for the money expended. It has planned picture circuits whereby especially for the children the library room might be made increasingly attractive; it has tried thru its meetings to rouse the librarians to greater helpfulness to the communities which they serve. Its officers hold themselves ready to do everything that can be done thru correspondence to promote library growth and to increase library efficiency.

To obtain the desired information about school libraries the following questions were sent out in May to the high schools:

1. What is the number of volumes in the high school library?
a. Ref. books. b. Sup. reading. c. Add. July 1-June 30, 1908
2. What is the number of periodicals subscribed for?
3. How and where are books kept?
a. In a library room? b. Are they convenient for reference use?
4. Are they lent to pupils for home use?
5. Are they lent to others than pupils and teachers?
6. Statistics of circulation?
7. What provision is made for use of books during vacation?
8. Would the use of books during vacation be appreciated by the community?
9. Is it feasible to arrange for such use?
10. Statistics of summer use?
11. Name of librarian?

12. How much of her time does she give to library duties?

Returns from the schools were in many cases not made at all. Blanks were sent out twice and postal card notices twice; yet in the end only 39 out of 75 made reply. There seemed no use, therefore, in attempting to arrive at totals.

In the following table are listed all of the schools replying:

NAME	Total vols. in library	Ref. books	Additions July 1907 June 1908
1 Alexandria	300	.....	.....
2 Arlington	150	50	.....
3 Beresford	807	115	.....
4 Britton (a)	800	300	250
5 Brookings	2,000	1,000	100
6 Bryant	615	.....	95
7 Canton	1,400	.....	50
8 Castlewood	596	60	80
9 Chamberlain.....	860	.....	.....
10 Clark	1,500	200	300
11 Clear Lake (a)	300	50	100
12 Custer	600	.....	.....
13 Deadwood (a)	3,000	.....	.....
14 Dell Rapids	250	50	50
15 DeSmet.....	1,287	200	115
16 Elk Point	1,200	700	100
17 Flandreau.....	2,035	317	460
18 Ft. Pierre	420	.....	30
19 Groton	900	225	80
20 Howard (a)	200	17	17
21 Hudson	733	502	72
22 Huron (a)	1,705	100	654
23 Ipswich (a).....	325	60	40
24 Lead (a)	3,000	1,650	250
25 Madison (a).....	674	425	116
26 Mitchell (a)	356	200	56
27 Parkston.....	466	50	42
28 Platte	308	96	.....
29 Plankinton	900	125	150
30 Rapid City .(a)	1,924	97	200
31 Redfield (a)	800	200	100
32 Salem	850	100	50
33 Sioux Falls (a).....	836	.....	100
34 Sturgis	2,100	400	101
35 Vermillion (a)	667	200	90
36 Watertown (a).....	675	631	150
37 Webster	2,000	1,200	200
38 White	591	119	11
39 Yankton (a).....	1,011	777	226

(a) Has public library.

What constitutes a reference book those who answered I judge are not agreed upon. The question was designed to bring out, of course, what portion of the library was not available for circulation; and reference books were sup-

posed to include, besides the encyclopedias, the larger histories, histories of literature, and all text-books. It is hardly conceivable that in a library for school use of several hundred volumes only a handful should be for reference. Some other interpretations was probably placed upon that term.

It is of interest to note what influence the presence of a public library has upon the school library. In some cases it would seem as yet to have no influence. The school library in several such towns seems just as large and just as varied as if no public library existed. In other cases the effect has been most striking. In Sioux Falls for example, there is in the school library about the same number of books as in Chamberlain. It must be noted also that nearly the entire number consists of reference books. Such must certainly be the tendency of the establishment of town libraries; to cut down the percentage of fiction and other circulating books purchased for the school. Does the presence of a fair school library prevent the establishment of a public library on the ground that such library is superfluous? Some superintendents with whom I have talked are of the opinion that such is not the case; the funds they say available for school libraries are so small that as the school grows the demand for reference books alone passes beyond the power to purchase and it becomes impossible to provide, with school funds, books for general reading. Furthermore it is urged that the school library tends to cultivate a taste for reading, to form the book habit. A generation brought up with good school libraries will not be satisfied without correspondingly good public libraries.

Almost as important as the book is the way in which it is kept. Only one school reports that their books are not convenient for reference use. The large number of 24 reports a special library room where the books, at least in part, are kept. In only a few cases, however, is there a well equipped reading or study room. Fourteen schools report that they are taking some periodicals, tho the number in nearly every case is small. It is an open question how much encouragement should be given to periodical reading. One superintendent reports a very great interest in such reading, which in his school is carried on under careful supervision. A considerable number of schools designate a librarian, but only eight reported definite duties and hours of service. In most cases the librarian is a pupil or a teacher who at odd times gives out books. The conditions in some of the larger schools, however, are particularly encouraging. Lead, perhaps, in this matter exemplifies its name; for there they have a large and well-equipped reading room, under the constant supervision of a trained librarian, who devotes her entire time to the service of the students. In smaller schools the example might well be followed to the extent of detailing for an hour each day one of the teachers to library duty; she should then help those who are using the library; to give out books is the smallest part of a librarian's business. Only seven schools report any statistics of circulation.

Of great general interest is the amount of vacation use made of the library. It has long seemed to the writer a sin in economy, terrible in its proportions, especially for a people so practical as the Americans that our churches should be used but one day in seven and that for many months the school houses should be a refuge only for spiders and vermin. As the school houses are becoming equipped with more and more of expensive furniture and apparatus the economic sin seems all the greater. The writer's views are shared by a consid-

erable portion of those in charge of the high schools; for five schools report that they are already in some way making provision for vacation use of books. Thirteen think that such use would be appreciated by the community, and ten think such use feasible. How this shall be accomplished is of course, where the difficulty begins. The superintendent in Plankinton checks out books at stated times during the summer. The school library at Elk Point is open two days of each week for the use of the public. Perhaps in other cases this might be good work for public spirited club women.

Libraries grouped by size are as follows:

Number containing over 2,000 volumes	6
Number containing from 1,800 to 2,000	1
Number containing from 1,600 to 1,800	1
Number containing from 1,400 to 1,600	2
Number containing from 1,200 to 1,400	2
Number containing from 1,000 to 1,200	1
Number containing from 800 to 1,000	7
Number containing from 600 to 800	6
Number containing from 400 to 600	5
Number containing from 100 to 400	8

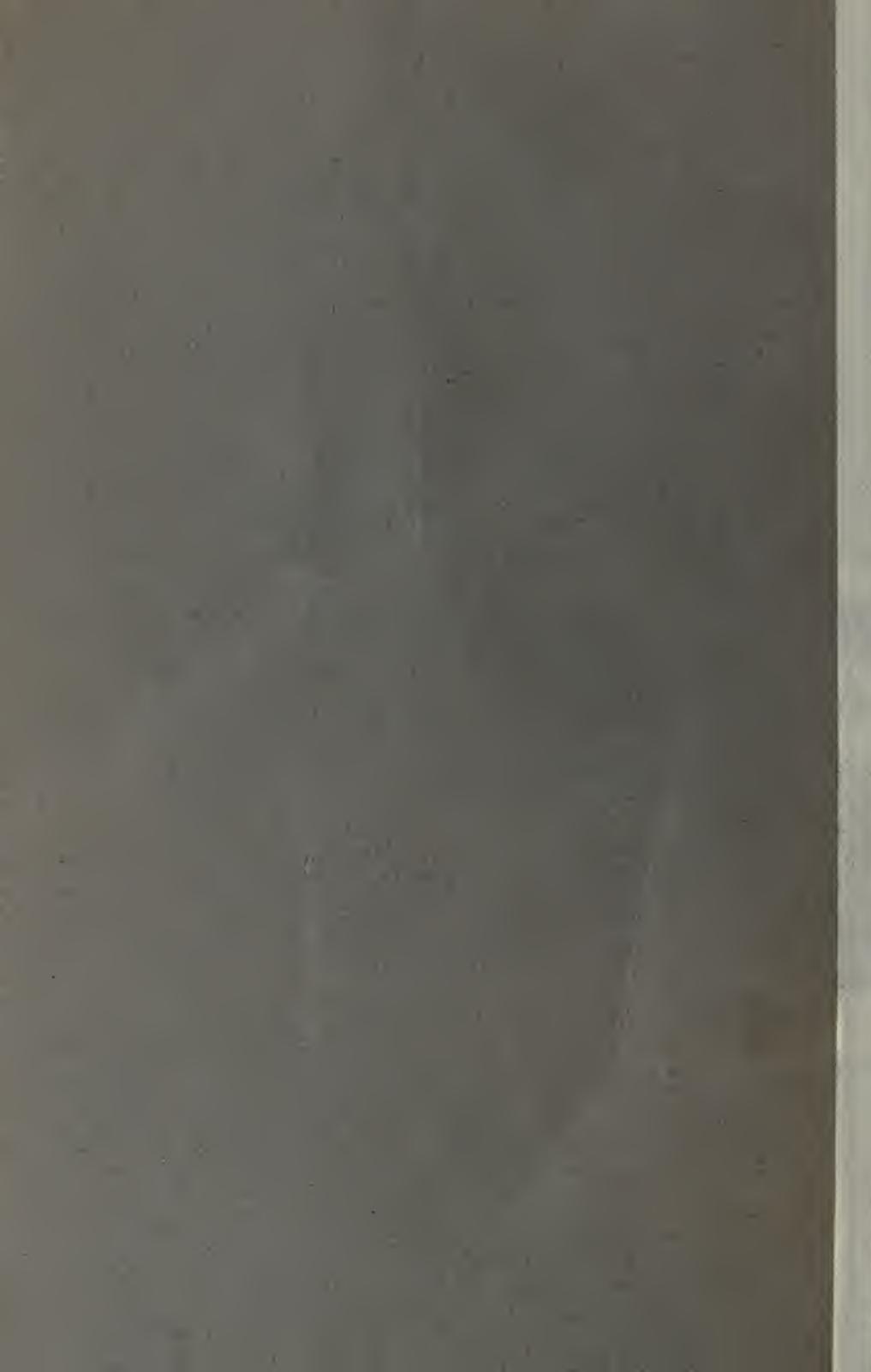
Some schools even throughout the school year are extending library privileges to the public. Sixteen schools report that they are lending books to others than pupils and teachers. From the little town of Britton comes the report that the astounding number of 100 books are in circulation all the time; Britton has a small public library also.

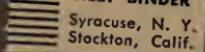
The officers of the Association are as follows:

President, Wm. H. Powers, S. D., S. C., Brookings.

Vice President, Edla M. Laurson, Carnegie Library, Mitchell, S. D.

Secretary-treasurer, Nettie I. Current, Carnegie Library, Sioux Falls.





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